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**THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE**

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

25 March 1981

NOTE FOR:

[redacted]
Chief, Political-Military Issues
Branch, IID/OPA

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[redacted]
Chief, Nuclear Programs Branch,
NED/OSWR

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The attached draft ("Nuclear Initiatives
for the Ottawa Summit") was tabled by DAS
L. Nosenzo at an IG meeting today at State.
I would appreciate if you would review it
and provide comments to me, if any, by
COB Friday.

[redacted]
SA/NPI

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cc:

[redacted] OER

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[redacted]
State Dept. review completed

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Both the Tokyo and Venice Summits stressed the need to develop nuclear power as a critical element in reducing oil dependence of Summit countries. These Summits also stressed the need to seek ways to decrease global proliferation risks that may be associated with such development. These general expressions of political will have been useful. The Ottawa Summit will want to reaffirm commitment of Summit countries to nuclear power to cooperate closely in international efforts to reduce proliferation risks, and to seek ways to ensure reliable and predictable nuclear supply to countries that share our non-proliferation objectives. However, if the Ottawa Summit participants wish to give impetus to the continued development of their national nuclear power programs, they will also need to address the current major impediments to public acceptance of nuclear energy expansion: nuclear safety and nuclear waste management/disposal. In particular, the Summit may wish to identify specific initiatives in these areas that would serve to demonstrate resolve of Summit countries to significantly improve public acceptance of nuclear power.

A. Nuclear Safety

Concern with nuclear safety is perhaps the single most important impediment to increased nuclear development. It is

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also one of the most difficult issues on which to formulate acceptable international initiatives because of the high sensitivity of the nuclear safety issue in domestic politics in a number of the Summit countries as well as the need to avoid imposition of international standards on national programs in an area of clearly national responsibility. Any initiatives will have to recognize these constraints.

Suggested Approach

One possible initiative that would place a Summit focus on international cooperation in day-to-day health and safety considerations, would be for the Summit to propose the convening of an experts group (under IAEA auspices in collaboration with the OECD) to review and upgrade international health and safety standards for reactor operation. Such standards could then be used, at each country's discretion, as guidelines in developing standards for national programs. The OECD and the IAEA already have such standards but it would be useful to upgrade these in a formal and visible way as a consequence of experience and improved procedures resulting from investigations of TMI and other nuclear incidents. It would, of course, be essential that there be no inference that the experts findings would be obligatory on participating nations; rather they should be recommendations that would be taken into account by countries in formulating and upgrading their national standards.

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A second initiative that would complement the establishment of internationally recommended health and safety standards would be the establishment of an international convention for emergency cooperation in the event of a nuclear incident. Such a convention could provide an international framework and legal mechanism for bilateral assistance and for assistance by the IAEA to countries in the event of future nuclear incidents such as TMI. It could also provide a mechanism for general exchange of information in the field of nuclear safety. Such a convention should involve no obligations on the Parties to give or accept assistance, but simply provide for information exchange, points of contact in each participating country for both routine and emergency situations, and immunity from liability in the event of assistance. The US has, in fact, already drafted a convention along the above lines and is consulting the IAEA Secretariat on how to proceed with this initiative. Summit support for such a convention would provide needed momentum to such an initiative and provide tangible evidence of action by Summit countries in an area of concern to the public.

The above approach of an experts group to formulate international recommendations for national use on a voluntary basis in combination with an international convention for information exchange and emergency cooperation is similar to the approach taken by Summit countries and others with regard to strengthening

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physical protection of nuclear materials. This approach has served quite well in increasing international awareness of the need for effective physical protection measures in providing a basis for effective national physical protection systems as well as in allaying public concerns about the adequacy of physical protection of nuclear materials. A similar approach in the health and safety area could be equally useful.

B. Nuclear Waste Management

Concerns with nuclear waste management/disposal are, of course, closely related to public health and safety concerns and rank second only to concerns about a repeat of TMI.

The problem of nuclear waste is a difficult one. At the technical level, the scientific community is becoming increasingly convinced that radioactive wastes can be safely isolated for very long periods in stable geologic environments. Several governments, international organizations, and distinguished private groups have recently reviewed the waste disposal issue and reached similar conclusions. A strong endorsement of these conclusions by Summit countries, in combination with concrete steps to improve coordination and public awareness of international and national efforts, should provide a useful forward step for dealing with this area of public concern.

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Suggested Approach

The Ottawa Summit should consider issuing a statement affirming that:

--While many technical developments necessary for the safe disposal of nuclear waste need to be completed, encouraging progress has been made;

--There appear to be no technological barriers to the safe management and disposal of nuclear waste; and,

--Several national and internationally-sponsored efforts are underway which should enable a technically sound demonstration that nuclear waste can be managed and disposed of with a high degree of safety and without undue risk to man or the environment to be conducted.

In addition to a waste management statement, the Summit may also wish to consider commissioning a high-level group to examine, in detail, ways to coordinate and complement national programs for waste management disposal. The group could be charged with determining possible ways to expand international collaboration in national R&D efforts. It could also explore the desirability of establishing an experts group, in the context of the IAEA or NEA, to begin the process of developing international recommendations on standards and techniques for safe and effective waste management/disposal as guidelines for countries in formulating their national programs.

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The high-level group would be tasked with developing and presenting specific recommendations to the next Economic Summit in the waste management/disposal area.

This type of initiative would demonstrate recognition by Summit countries of the need to move in parallel on waste management/waste disposal along with aggressive development of nuclear power programs. However, it would do so in a way that takes into account the differing stages of waste management/disposal programs in the various Summit countries and the significant technical work that remains to be done in this area.

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